

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 OES-06
NRC-05 EB-08 IO-13 /099 W
-----161752Z 066369 /46

R 161723Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5686
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02919

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MNUC, PARM, MARR, BR, GW
SUBJECT: THE CDU AND THE FRG-BRAZILIAN ACCORDS

BEGIN SUMMARY: CDU/CSU FRAKTION CHAIRMAN KOHL WROTE TO THE CHANCELLOR ON FEB. 4 SUGGESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION AGREE ON A COMMON POSITION CONCERNING THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORDS. KEY CDU AND CSU POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO TAKE A TOUGH LINE IN PRIVATE. MANY OF THOSE CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES WHO VOTED FOR THE NPT FEEL THAT THE FRG MUST GO AHEAD WITH THE BRAZIL ACCORDS AS THEY NOW STAND. THE MORE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE CDU/CSU FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WILL HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO OPEN HIMSELF TO THE CHARGE OF SELLING OUT GERMAN NATIONAL INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF CDU/CSU FRAKTION CHAIRMAN KOHL'S FEB. 4 LETTER TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC SO PLEASE PROTECT. THE PRESS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED THAT KOHL HAD URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN FIRM IN RESISTING U.S. PRESSURE TO ALTER THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL. ACTUALLY, KOHL'S LETTER INCLUDED AN OFFER TO HOLD
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DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO REACH A COMMON POSITION. WE HAVE ALSO HAD REPORTS THAT KOHL WAS UNDER SOME PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY FROM THE CSU GROUP IN THE FRAKTION, TO TAKE A TOUGH POSITION ON THE ISSUE AND TO WRITE TO SCHMIDT. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE BORNE OUT BY THE FACT THAT KOHL SENT COPIES OF THE LETTER TO FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AND TO DEPUTY CDU/CSU FRAKTION CHAIR-

MAN ZIMMERMANN (CSU).

2. A TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE LETTER FOLLOWS:

"DEAR MR. CHANCELLOR:

THE DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE BRAZIL ENTERPRISE AND THE FUTURE CONDITIONS FOR THE EXPORT OF REACTORS AND "SENSITIVE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS" ARE OBVIOUSLY ENTERING THE DECISIVE STAGE. HARMONIZATION OF THE POSITIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION SEEMS TO ME TO BE DESIRABLE AND A NECESSARY TOPIC OF NEGOTIATION, GIVEN THE FAR-REACHING AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER. THIS REQUIRES, HOWEVER, THAT THE OPPOSITION BE INFORMED IN A TIMELY, CONTINUING AND COMPLETE MANNER ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS.

SHOULD YOU AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL, I WOULD NAME THREE OR FOUR COLLEAGUES FROM MY FRAKTION TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU.

WITH FRIENDLY GREETINGS,
(SIGNED) HELMUT KOHL"

3. THE NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUE HAS BEEN A DIVISIVE ONE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02919

WITHIN THE CDU/CSU AND MANY OPPOSITION DEPUTIES FELT THAT

THE NPT WAS DETRIMENTAL TO GERMAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. WHEN THE BUNDESTAG VOTED ON THE NPT ON FEB. 20, 1974, THE CDU SPLIT ON THE ISSUE. ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN CDU/CSU DEPUTIES VOTED FOR THE NPT AND NINETY AGAINST. HOWEVER, ON THE ISSUE OF THE PROPOSED FRG EXPORT OF A REPROCESSING PLANT TO BRAZIL AS PART OF THE FRG/BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORDS, MANY OF THE CDU DEPUTIES WHO VOTED FOR THE NPT FEEL THAT WEST GERMANY MUST GO AHEAD WITH ALL PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT AS THEY NOW STAND.

4. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SCHROEDER, FOR EXAMPLE, MENTIONED AT A RECENT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE AMBASSADOR FOR KEY CDU DEPUTIES, THAT GERMANY MUST STICK TO ITS COMMITMENTS AND THAT TO GO BACK ON THE BRAZIL ACCORDS WOULD DAMAGE GERMANY'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION. DEPUTIES MERTES AND WALLMANN, BOTH OF WHOM VOTED AGAINST RATIFYING THE NPT, TOOK AN EVEN MORE ADAMANT STAND ABOUT THE NEED FOR THE FRG TO FULFILL THE PROVISIONS OF THE FRG/BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORDS. ANOTHER ON THAT THE OPPOSITION IS BECOMING MORE VOCAL ON THE ISSUE IS THAT THE CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER "DIE WELT" CONFIDENTIAL

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ON FEB. 16 DEVOTED A FULL PAGE TO THE ISSUE WITH THE HEADLINE: "BRAZIL TREATY WILL BE THE TEST OF GERMAN CREDIBILITY."

5. THE OFFER OF THE OPPOSITION TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON REACHING A COMMON POSITION ON THE ISSUE IS DESIGNED TO: (A) DEMONSTRATE THAT THE CDU/CSU IS ALSO A STRONG DEFENDER OF GERMAN NATIONAL INTERESTS; AND (B) MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GO BACK ON THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL. KOHL HAS NOT AS YET RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE CHANCELLOR BUT HE IS IN THE PROCESS OF SELECTING CDU/CSU DEPUTIES WHO WOULD MAKE UP THE OPPOSITION TEAM IF DISCUSSIONS WERE TO TAKE PLACE.

6. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WILL HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL THAT HE PROTECTS HIS FLANKS ON THIS ISSUE AND DOES NOT OPEN HIMSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT TO THE CHARGE THAT HE HAS NEGLECTED GERMAN NATIONAL INTERESTS. STOESEL

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MNUC, PARM, MARR, BR, GE
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